

3257-21A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Maurice R. Paquin

Serial No.: Group:

Filed: concurrently herewith Examiner:

For: METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A PRESS FABRIC BY SPIRALLY
ATTACHING A TOP LAMINATE LAYER WITH A HEAT-ACTIVATED
ADHESIVE

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R:

Prior to conducting a first examination of the above-
identified application, kindly amend said application as
follows:

In the Specification:

Please insert the following on page 1 between the title and the heading "Background of the Invention":

--Cross-Reference to Related Application

This is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application SN 09/337,749, filed June 22, 1999.--

In the Claims:

Kindly amend claim 1 to read as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for manufacturing a press fabric for a paper machine, said method comprising:

providing a base fabric for said press fabric, said base fabric being in the form of an endless loop, said endless loop having an inner surface, an outer surface, a first and a second lateral edge, and a fabric width measured transversely between said lateral edges;

providing a strip of top laminate layer material for covering said outer surface of said base fabric in a closed helix, said strip having a beginning, a first lateral edge and a second lateral edge, a strip width measured transversely thereacross, said strip width being less than said fabric width;

attaching a heat-activated adhesive film to one side of said

strip of top laminate layer material to form a multi-component strip;

attaching said side of said strip of top laminate layer material having said heat-activated adhesive film at said beginning of said multi-component strip to said outer surface of said base fabric at a point on said first lateral edge of said base fabric using heat and pressure;

continuing from said beginning of said multi-component strip, attaching said side of said strip of top laminate layer material having said heat-activated adhesive film to said outer surface of said base fabric in a closed helix having a plurality of turns using heat and pressure, wherein said first lateral edge of a turn of said multi-component strip being attached to said outer surface abuts against said second lateral edge of a turn of said multi-component strip previously attached to said outer surface, until said outer surface of said base fabric is completely covered by said multi-component strip in a closed helix; and

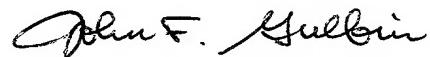
cutting said multi-component strip at a point on said second lateral edge of said base fabric, whereby said multi-component strip forms a top laminate layer on said base fabric.

REMARKS

Entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested. Support for the amendment may be found in the specification on page 10, lines 9 through 25. Attached hereto as an Appendix is a marked-up copy of claim 1 showing the changes being made with the customary bracketing and underlining.

An early examination of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

1. (Amended) A method for manufacturing a press fabric for a paper machine, said method comprising:

providing a base fabric for said press fabric, said base fabric being in the form of an endless loop, said endless loop having an inner surface, an outer surface, a first and a second lateral edge, and a fabric width measured transversely between said lateral edges;

[providing a multi-component strip for covering said outer surface of said base fabric in a closed helix, said strip having a beginning, a first lateral edge and a second lateral edge, a strip width measured transversely thereacross, said strip width being less than said fabric width, said strip having at least a strip of top laminate layer material and a heat-activated adhesive film bonded to one side of said strip of top laminate layer material;]

providing a strip of top laminate layer material for covering said outer surface of said base fabric in a closed helix, said strip having a beginning, a first lateral edge and a second lateral edge, a strip width measured transversely thereacross, said strip width being less than said fabric width;

attaching a heat-activated adhesive film to one side of said strip of top laminate layer material to form a multi-component strip;

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attaching said side of said strip of top laminate layer material having said heat-activated adhesive film at said beginning of said multi-component strip to said outer surface of said base fabric at a point on said first lateral edge of said base fabric using heat and pressure;

continuing from said beginning of said multi-component strip, attaching said side of said strip of top laminate layer material having said heat-activated adhesive film to said outer surface of said base fabric in a closed helix having a plurality of turns using heat and pressure, wherein said first lateral edge of a turn of said multi-component strip being attached to said outer surface abuts against said second lateral edge of a turn of said multi-component strip previously attached to said outer surface, until said outer surface of said base fabric is completely covered by said multi-component strip in a closed helix; and

cutting said multi-component strip at a point on said second lateral edge of said base fabric, whereby said multi-component strip forms a top laminate layer on said base fabric.